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science, and they may congratulate themselves upon the selection of an historian who has not ignored the claims of other nations.

THE OCTOPUS.[1] — This is a pleasant account of the Octopus or poulpe, adapted to the mind of the average visitor at the immense aquarial establishments of the sea-ports of England, and perhaps worth reading on this side of the water, where poulpes — "these blasphemies of creation against itself," as Victor Hugo styles them — are common enough southward, but fashionable colossal aquaria are as yet lacking.

EDWARDS'S BUTTERFLIES OF NORTH AMERICA.[2] — The fourth part of the current series of this magnificent work, issued from the Riverside Press at the end of December last (but dated November), contains fewer subjects than usual, two whole plates being given to illustrate the history of *Melitæa Phaeton* and *Papilio brevicauda.* The former plate is perfect as far as the colored figures are concerned, and cannot be surpassed, if it can be equaled, by the best of foreign work ; but the plain lithograph of the web is not so satisfactory, showing in but few places any indication of the web-like structure. The other plates contain three species of *Argynnis* (*A. Eurynome*, *Bischoffi*, and *Opis*), and two of *Grapta* (*G. Hylas* and *Marsyas*). The text accompanying the three plates given to these insects is mainly descriptive, but contains some strictures on Mr. Scudder's classification of these species of *Grapta.* The accounts of *Phaeton* and *brevicauda*, on the other hand, are very full, and are welcome additions to the history of our butterflies. That of the former is very nearly complete, but contains a few errors ; for instance, in the statement that the rows of hair-bearing tubercles of the newly hatched caterpillar "indicate the position of the future spines." It has long since been pointed out (*Canadian Entomologist*, March, 1872) that this is not the case, the position of few or none of the spine-bearing eminences of the mature caterpillar corresponding with those of the previous hair-supporting tubercles. These are points of structure to which the author pays little attention, but which are very important in their bearing upon the affinities of butterflies.

In writing that "*Phaeton* alone, out of a hundred species of butterflies that frequent our fields," protects itself in the larval stage "in a web woven by the community," Mr. Edwards seems to be unaware that this is the case with every one of the tribe to which *Phaeton* belongs, as far as their history is known, and will therefore doubtless prove true of the few species of Eastern North America whose history has not yet been fully elucidated. It is also true of some other of our common butterflies.

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[1] *The Octopus, or the Devil Fish of Fiction and of Fact.* By HENRY LEE. With Illustrations. London. 1875. 12mo, pp. 114. For sale by the Naturalist's Agency, Salem.

[2] *The Butterflies of North America.* With Colored Drawings and Descriptions. By WM. H. EDWARDS. Boston: H. O. Houghton & Co. 4to. $2.50.

The food-plant, *Viburnum dentatum*, given on the authority of Mr. Glover (doubtless borrowed from Dr. Packard) is probably a mistake. The caterpillar of *Phaeton* has been found upon a great variety of plants, such as Aster, Corylus, Berberis, Solidago, Vernonia, Clematis, and Rubus, and even upon ferns, grasses, and flags; but this is to be accounted for simply by the roving disposition of the caterpillar.

It is strange that Mr. Edwards makes no allusion whatever to the very careful account of the history of this insect given three or four years ago by Mr. Lintner.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — The Native Races of the Pacific States of North America. By Hubert Howe Bancroft. Vol. V. Primitive History. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1876.

Birds of Western and Northwestern Mexico, based upon Collections made by Colonel A. J. Grayson, Captain J. Xanthus, and Frederick Bischoff. By George N. Lawrence. (Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History.) 4to, pp. 54.

Zoölogical Results of the Hassler Expedition. II. Ophiuridæ and Astrophytidæ, including those dredged by the late Dr. William Stimpson. By Theodore Lyman. With five Plates and five Figures printed in the Text. (Illustrated Catalogue of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, No. 8.) 4to, pp. 34.

Neomenia, a new Genus of Invertebrate Animals described by Tycho Tullberg. With two Plates. (Proceedings of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, May 12, 1875.) 8vo, pp. 12.

On the Osteology and Peculiarities of the Tasmanians, a Race of Man recently become extinct. By J. B. Davis. (From the Transactions of the Dutch Society of Sciences, of Haarlem.) 1874. 4to, pp. 20. Two Plates.

Geological Notes. I. On the Newport Conglomerate. II. On the Gravel and Cobble-Stone Deposits of Virginia and the Middle States. (From the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History.) Boston. 1875. 8vo, pp. 13.

Remarks on Canker-Worms and Description of a new Genus of Phalænidæ. By Charles V. Riley. (From the Transactions of the St. Louis Academy of Sciences.) 8vo, pp. 15. St. Louis. November 5, 1875.

Notes on the Natural History of the Grape Phylloxera (*P. vastatrix* Planchon). By Charles V. Riley. 8vo, pp. 7.

Ueber die Umwandlung des Mexicanischen Axolobt in ein Amblystoma. (Siebold und Kölliker's Zeitschrift, xxv.) 8vo, pp. 37. 1875.

Rectification of the Geological Map of Michigan, embracing Observations on the Drift of the State. By Alexander Winchell. Salem. 8vo, pp. 26.

Botanical Bulletin. Vol. I., No. 1. November, 1875. John M. Coulter, editor, Hanover, Ind. $1.00 a year. Monthly.

An Illustration of North American Agrotis and Oncocnemis. By Leon F. Harvey. With a photographic plate. 8vo, pp. 4. Buffalo, N. Y. 1876.

On Noctuidæ from the Pacific Coast of North America. By A. R. Grote. With a photographic plate. 8vo, pp. 10. Buffalo, N. Y. 1876.

The Spiders of the United States. By N. M. Hentz. (Occasional Papers of the Boston Society of Natural History, II.) With 21 plates. 8vo, pp. 171. Boston. 1875. Paper, $3.00; cloth, $3.50.

Pisciculture. An Address on the Artificial Breeding of Fish, their Habits, etc., delivered before the Detroit Scientific Association. By N. W. Clark. Detroit. 1875. 8vo, pp. 20.

Bulletin of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. No. 5, second series. 8vo, pp. 233–414. Washington, D. C. January 8, 1876.